

V. REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Loose et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,517,433). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The following points are amended in independent claims 1, 12 and 13.

A) A limitation is added wherein the liquid crystal display device comprises a liquid crystal panel, a light guide device, illumination devices and a reflection film.  
B) As for the reflection film, a limitation is added:  
"the reflection film having light transmission areas each of which corresponds to each of the reels to see and recognize the symbols displayed on each reel and a light reflection area formed around the light transmission areas to reflect the light from the light guide device toward the liquid crystal panel"

C) As for the liquid crystal panel, a limitation is added:  
"the liquid crystal panel which is arranged so as to cover not only the light transmission areas but also the light reflection area"  
D) The limitation of the current claim 3, "wherein the moving velocity of the game information in the symbol display areas is faster than the moving velocity of the game information in the effect display area", is added to claim 1. (Claim 1 only; Claims 12 and 13 already have the limitation.)

According to the above configurations, the game information virtually does not disturb the visibility of the symbols displayed on the reels through the light transmission areas of the reflection film even when game information is displayed in the symbol display areas of the liquid crystal display device, because the moving velocity of the game information is faster.

In addition, when the game information is displayed in the effect display area of the liquid crystal display device, the game information is illuminated from behind by

the light from the illumination devices which is reflected at the light reflection area of the reflection film. Therefore, the game information is clearly visible.

Claim 3 has been cancelled.

Claim 14 has been cancelled.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of the claims as amended and described above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the applied art.

For the reasons set forth above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 15 and 16 are newly added.

In claim 15, there is claimed a feature that the light permeability of the symbol display areas is made high so that the game information is easily recognized when the game information is displayed in the symbol display areas and that the light permeability of the symbol display areas is made low and the symbols are easily recognized when the game information is displayed in the effect display area.

This feature of claim 15 is supported with the descriptions as follows:

[0075] As the modification of this embodiment, it may be changed the light permeability of the symbol display area (easy recognizability of the first display area) substantially at the same time when the game information is displayed or movingly displayed with a predetermined display mode. As the concrete example, the symbol display area may be controlled so as to have low light permeability (so that the first display area becomes hard to see) when the game information is displayed or movingly displayed with a predetermined display mode; thereby the game information is controlled so as to easily see. And the symbol display area may be controlled so as to have high light permeability when the game information is displayed or movingly

displayed with a predetermined mode in the second display area, thereby the first display means is controlled so as to easily see.

In claim 16, there is claimed a feature that the liquid crystal panel is set to a normally white mode.

The above claim 16 is supported with the description as follows:

[0034] The liquid crystal panel 34 is formed by filling liquid crystal material in clearance formed between the transparent plate such as a glass plate on which thin film transistor layer is formed and the transparent plate facing thereto. The display mode of the liquid crystal panel 34 is set to normally white. Here, "normally white" means a construction that the liquid crystal panel 34 becomes in a white display state (light can advance toward the display plane, that is, light transmitted can be seen from outside) when the liquid crystal panel 34 is not driven. By utilizing the liquid crystal panel 34 constructed to have the normally white mode, the symbols (variable display and stop display of the symbol display parts) arranged on the reels 3L, 3C, 3R can be seen and recognized through the symbol display areas 21 L, 21 C, 21R even if it occurs a trouble that the liquid crystal panel cannot be driven. Thereby, the player can continue the game. That is to say, if the above trouble occurs, it can be conducted the game based on the basic function such as the variable display and the stop display of the reels 3L, 3C, 3R.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of

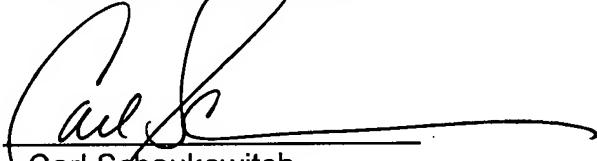
the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Date: May 30, 2008

By:

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure(s):      Amendment Transmittal

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